

13 January 2021

Dear Parent/Carer of Year 11 Student

Summer Examinations 2021

I am sure you are concerned about the situation with respect to the summer examinations for your son or daughter in Year 11. All GCSE summer examinations have been cancelled although BTEC and OCR National examinations have continued during January however today, these have been cancelled for February. This means that the BTEC Business Exam scheduled for February will now not be going ahead.

We are, of course, still awaiting details of the process that will support the preparation of teacher grades for Year 11 students. As soon as we have more details we will let you know about the process, how this impacts on your child and what steps you can take to support them at this difficult time. It is essential that the process enables your child to the next stage of their journey through education at an appropriate level.

In the recent assembly we held for Year 11 students over the Teams platform (Friday 8 January) we talked through what students can be doing now to help this process work for them. If your child missed this assembly there is a recording that they can access. This can be found in the 'chat' area accessed on the left hand section of the Teams screen. The mock examinations that were due to take place during the first week back after February half term will not go ahead.

We want to stress that the best approach all our students can take is to attend their online lessons, complete all the work set by their teachers, return work to teachers for feedback when teachers have asked for this to happen and to ensure that they use all the resources and learning platforms eg Seneca Learning, Kerboodle, Hegarty Maths etc. If there are any concerns about logins please contact the school on office@jstc.org.uk.

As we hear more details from the Government, we will be developing our plans to respond to the needs of the process to support the production of teacher grades. This is a process we undertook last summer and we will be looking at different forms of assessment, evidence from lessons in school, evidence from previous years and the professional opinion of teachers to make the right judgements. There may be a need to replace the formal mock examinations with different forms of assessment to gather the evidence we require and we will put this in place as soon as possible.

Please be reassured that teaching staff know your child well and understand the progress and learning journey that students make over the course of a typical Year 11 curriculum. Our teacher assessment grades will not be based exclusively on a mock exam taken in November 2020. That would be equivalent to giving a runner a predicted time for their marathon based on the first race they ran in training. If you have any questions regarding the content of this letter please contact the Year 11 Progress Team on pastoral.year11@jstc.org.uk.

Yours sincerely



Joyce Shorrocks (Ms)
Headteacher

